

Message Text

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ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 CAB-09 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00

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FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9398

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E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: ETRN, FR

SUBJECT: CIVAIR: WORLD AIRWAYS CHARTERS

REF: (A) STATE 73087, (B) PARIS 10846

1. SUMMARY- SGAC HAS REACTED ADVERSELY WORLD AIRWAYS' APPROACH FRENCH EMBASSY WASHINGTON AND AIRLINE' S PREMATURE ASSERTION SGAC HAD APPROVED LAS VEGAS FLIGHTS. WE HOPE SGAC HAS NOW BEEN MILLIFIED BUT FINAL DECISION WILL BE TAKEN ONLY TOMORROW. ACTION REQUESTED: IF FLIGHTS APPROVED, REQUEST TRAFFIC CONTROL CONFIRMATION LAS VEGAS ORIGIN AND DEPARTURE ULTIMATELY BE COMMUNICATED EMBASSY FOR TRANSMITTAL SGAC.

2. THOMASSET PHONED LATE TODAY RE COMPLICATIONS THAT HAD DEVELOPED RE AUTHORIZATION WORLD AIRWAYS FLIGHTS. SAID WORLD AIRWAYS HAD INTERVENED WITH LANSALOT- BASOU OF FRENCH EMBASSY IN EFFORT SECURE SGAC APPROVAL LOS ANGELES ORIGIN FLIGHTS. LANSALOT- BASOU HAD WIRED LATHIERE, SGAC DIRECTOR AIR TRANSPORT, WHO HAD LOOKED INTO PROBLEM OF WHICH HE HAD PREVIOUSLY NOT BEEN SEIZED. LATHIERE HAD REACTED ADVERSELY TO WORLD AIRWAYS CONTINUED PERSISTANCE IN DEMANDING LOS ANGELES ORIGIN FLIGHTS AND LAST- MINUTE PRESSURE TACTICS UTILIZED TO THAT END. LATHIERE HAD SO INDICATED IN CABLE REPLY TO LANSALOT- BASOU. LATTER HAD ADVISED BY RETURN CABLE THAT WORLD AIRWAYS HAD INFORMED HIM SGAC HAD INSTEAD AUTHORIZED LAS VEGAS.

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EM THOMASSET POINTED OUT THAT WORLD AIRWAYS HAD FILED FOR AUTHORIZATION LAS VEGAS FLIGHTS ONLY TODAY AND ACTION HAD NOT YET BEEN TAKEN ON THESE REQUESTS. SGAC DID NOT TAKE KINDLY TO FACT WORLD AIRWAYS SEEMED TO BE TAKING SGAC APPROVAL FOR GRANTED, WHICH SGAC TENDED VIEW AS YET ANOTHER EXAMPLE OF WORLD AIRWAYS' HIGH-HADEDNESS. AS RESULT, APPROVAL OF LAS VEGAS FLIGHTS WAS NOW IN QUESTION.

4. WE INFORMED THOMASSET THAT SITUATION CLEARLY RESULT OF SERIES OF UNFORTUNATE MISUNDERSTANDINGS. HUGHES HAD INFORMED US YESTERDAY THAT WORLD AIRWAYS HAD INFORMALLY APPRISED LANSALOT- BASOU OF PROBLEMS IT WAS ENCOUNTERING RE LOS ANGELES ORIGIN FLIGHTS BUT, SO WE HAD BEEN TOLD, AIM WAS SIMPLY TO ALERT LANSALOT- BASOU TO MATTER WHICH WORLD AIRWAYS MIGHT LATER RAISE FORMALLY WITH DEPT. AND HE HAD NOT BEEN ASKED INTERVENE AT THAT STAGE WITH HIS GOVERNMENT. IF LANSALOT- BASOU HAD NONETHELESS DECIDED QUERY SGAC THIS WAS PRESUMABLY DONE AT HIS OWN INITIATIVE.

5. RE ASSERTION LAS VEGAS FLIGHTS APPROVED AS OF YESTERDAY, THIS DOUBTLESS ALSO DUE TO CONFUSION INFO RELAYED WASHINGTON REP WORLD AIRWAYS BY HIS PRINCIPALS AT SECOND AND THIRD HAND. WE INFORMED THOMASSET THAT EMBASSY TOO HAD BEEN SURPRISED LEARN (REF A) THAT WORLD AIRWAYS HAD ADVISED DEPT. YESTERDAY LAS VEGAS FLIGHTS HAD BEEN APPROVED. EMBASSY HAD REPORTED (REF B) AND HAD SO INFORMED WORLD AIRWAYS SGAC WAS DISPOSED APPROVE LAS VEGAS ORIGIN SUBJECT OF COURSE TO NEW FILINGS ON WHICH SGAC WOULD THEN PRONOUNCE. THOMASSET CONFIRMED NEW FILINGS RECEIVED THIS MORNING BUT DECISION NOW SUSPENDED. AS RESULT LATHIERE' S INVOLVEMENT THOMASSET DID NOT FEEL ABLE AUTHORIZE LAS VEGAS FLIGHTS WITHOUT HIS CLEARANCE AND HE WAS DEPARTING PARIS TOMORROW.

6. THOMASSET ALSO EXPRESSED SOME DOUBT WHETHER WORLD AIRWAYS FLIGHTS WOULD REALLY UTILIZE LAS VEGAS; IF NOT, WOULD BE " VERY EMBARRASSING." WE INFORMED HER USG WOULD CERTAINLY NOT CONDONE FALSE FILINGS BY US CARRIER AND WE WERE CONFIDENT THAT, IF SGAC WISHED, CONFIRMATION COULD BE PROVIDED FROM TRAFFIC CONTROL RECORDS ON WORLD AIRWAYS AIRCRAFT DEPARTURE AND RETURN LAS VEGAS FOR THESE FLIGHTS. WE AGREED THAT THOUGH WORLD AIRWAYS AIRCRAFT MIGHT TRANSPORT GROUP TOURS FROM LOS ANGELES AIRCRAFT HAD TO TOUCH DOWN AT LAS VEGAS. THOMASSET, MUCH MILLIFIED, SAID SGAC WOULD BE RELUCTANT REQUEST SUCH CONFIRM-LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ATION BUT WOULD BE " MORAL ASSURANCE" TO RECEIVE IT.

7. AS TO WHETHER LATHIERE MIGHT NOW REJECT LAS VEGAS AS POINT OR ORIGIN, WE ALERTED THOMASSET TO SGAC DIFFICULTY JUSTIFYING REFUSAL ON THESE GROUNDS AFTER ASSURING US CHARTER FLIGHTS FOR PAPEETE FROM US INLAND POINTS WERE PERMISSIBLE WITHIN SGAC QUOTA. WE NOTED EMBASSY COULD EXPECT HAVE LAST WORD ON US GEOGRAPHY.

8. UPSHOT WAS THAT THOMASSET WILL ENDEAVOR CLEAR APPROVAL LAS VEGAS FLIGHTS TOMORROW WITH LATHIERE AND IF UNABLE CONTACT HIM IN TIME WILL ACT ON HER OWN AUTHORITY. WHILE UNWILLING SPECIFY WHETHER ON HER OWN SHE WOULD CONFIRM APPROVAL LAS VEGAS, THAT CERTAINLY SEEMS TO BE HER INCLINATION.

9. COMMENT: WHILE SGAC MAY BE OVERLY SENSITIVE IN ITS REACTIONS IT WOULD SEEM T
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